(b) whether local witnesses have confirmed that they had sighted the aircraft flying lower over this area; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the case and why no action was taken against this introducing aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) No, Sir. **The** claim of local witnesses sighting an aircraft could not be substantiated and was found to be incorrect.

Ranking of India in corruption

1535. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a globally recognised annual survey of corruption has put India at No. 71 in a list of 102 countries as reported in the Hindustan Times of August 29, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Attempt to hijack Air Seychelles Aircraft

1536. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigation have been made to establish the motive and the manner in which the alleged hijack attempt on Air Seychelles was made in September, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to make security check at airports more foolproof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 9.9.2002, Air Seychelles flight HM 017 left Mumbai Airport at the scheduled time for Male and Seychelles. 30 minuts before approach of Male Airport, a passenger by name Shri Chandra Basu Sashi Raj, threatened one of the Air hostesses with a knife and wanted to enter the cockpit forcibly. He was overpowered by the crew of the aircraft and on arrival at Male Airport, he was handed over to the Male Authorities.The investigation has revealed that this was on act of individual of unstable mind.

(c) To further tighten security, BCAS has reiterated instructions regarding secondary ladder point checks to all airlines.

Indians Imprisoned in foreign jails

1537. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians imprisoned in foreign jails as on date;

(b) the number of prisoners in jails morethan five and ten years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government of India to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b)The number of Indians imprisoned in foreign jails is 8994. The period of their imprisonment is not available with the Government.

(c) Indian Missions abroad liaise with the host Government for speedy and fair trail. Legal advice is provided wherever relevant and all attempts to obtain remission of sentence, commutation or pardon are made where the law of the receiving State permits.

Latest equipments installed at airports to fight terrorism

1538. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Home Minister and the Civil Aviation authorities are bringing in the latest technology in bi-metrics to fight terrorism;